

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 2-5, 38, 39 and 43 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 33, and 41 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-15, 17-36, 38-40 and 42-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent no. 6,434,599 of Porter ("Porter"). Claims 16, 37 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Porter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention, as claimed, is patentable over the cited art. Claim 1 is representative of Applicants' independent claims for purposes of discussing the cited art. Claim 1 provides:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented apparatus for use by a plurality of users using a plurality of user devices, the apparatus comprising a plurality of agents of a plurality of different types to communicate with each other, at least some of the agents representing physical entities, **the plurality of agents including:**  
    **a plurality of device agents, each representing one of the plurality of user devices; and**  
    **a plurality of persona agents, each representing one of the plurality of users;**  
    **wherein the plurality of persona agents collect information about properties of other agents, including the device agents, and route the collected information to one or more other agents, of the plurality of agents, which subscribe to the properties. (Emphasis added.)**

Porter does not disclose or suggest such an apparatus or a related technique. In particular, Porter does not disclose or suggest:

a plurality of device agents, each representing one of the plurality of user devices, and  
a plurality of persona agents, each representing one of the plurality of users;  
wherein the plurality of persona agents collect information about properties of other agents, including the device agents, and route the collected information to one or more other agents, of the plurality of agents, which subscribe to the properties.

Each of Applicants' independent claims includes essentially these limitations. Assuming *arguendo* Porter discloses any type of "agent", Applicants find no disclosure in Porter of device agents which represents user devices and persona agents which represent users, nor do Applicants find any disclosure of agents which collect information about properties of other agents, or agents which subscribe to properties of other agents.

In the rejection of dependent claims 4 and 5 (now canceled), the Examiner cited Porter at col. 4 line 51 – col. 5 line 21 and col. 6 line 63 – col. 7 line 45 as allegedly disclosing the above-mentioned claim features (Office Action, p. 4). However, the cited portions of Porter do not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned claims features, nor are these claim features found anywhere else in Porter. If the Examiner decides nonetheless to maintain the rejection, Applicants request that the Examiner clearly state exactly which elements in Porter the Examiner thinks read on each of the above-mentioned claim elements, and precisely where in Porter their recited functionality is disclosed.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited art.

### Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

### Conclusion

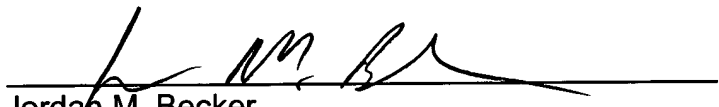
For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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